

**Present:** Dwight Baker; Ray Day, Jr.; Dave Elliott; Holly Plackett, Vice-Chair; Anirudh Sahni; Carla Saulter; Tina Shereen, Chair

**Excused:** Andy Bennett; Joan Sells

**Provisional Members:** Miranda Leidich; Joan Michaels; Ed Miller

**Staff:** Barbara de Michele, Community Relations Planner; Jill Krecklow, Finance and Administrative Services Manager

**Guest:** Rodney Rutherford

Shereen opened the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

### **Budget Presentation**

Krecklow gave a detailed breakdown of the proposed 2008 Metro budget. Included in the budget presentation was rationale for Metro's proposal to raise fares in 2008. Committee members asked numerous questions throughout the presentation and thanked Krecklow for her attendance.

### **Fare Increase**

At the request of Metro management, TAC members discussed the proposed fare increase and developed a draft letter for transmittal to the Council Budget committee (see attached). In general, members supported the proposed fare increase but expressed concerns about the impact of increased fares on seniors and disabled riders. Additionally, individual members expressed concerns about the impact of the fare increase on ridership, especially among low-income riders, and urged the Council to consider increasing the amount of subsidy for low income fares beyond the amount proposed in the budget.

At the end of the fare increase discussion, members also expressed concerns about the timing of the request from Metro. Members would have liked more time to hear and consider the proposal before making comments upon it. Members asked staff to convey this concern to Metro leadership.

### **Retreat**

The TAC established the date of their annual retreat as Saturday, January 26. Due to the length of discussion on the proposed fare increase, the remaining committee business was deferred until the November meeting.

Shereen adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

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**King County**



**King County**

**Department of Transportation**

Metro Transit Division

Community Relations and Communications

KSC-TR-0824

201 South Jackson Street

Seattle, WA 98104-3856

October 23, 2007

The Honorable Bob Ferguson, Chair  
Operating Budget, Fiscal Management and Mental Health Committee  
Room 1200  
COURTHOUSE

Dear Councilmember Ferguson:

On Tuesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, the King County Transit Advisory Committee received a presentation from Metro Finance Manager Jill Krecklow on Metro's proposed budget and fare increase. We welcome the opportunity to share this feedback with you.

The committee supports the overall proposed bus fare increase. This support is based on four elements: 1) the committee recognizes the lack of a fare increase over a seven-year period; 2) the committee recognizes the impact of increased fuel prices on operating costs; 3) the committee supports the 25/75 OE/OR ratio; and 4) the committee wants to see transit services improved and expanded throughout the Puget Sound region.

At the same time, the committee expressed the following concerns:

- Of significant concern is the effect of the increase on seniors and disabled riders in the off-peak period. One committee member pointed out that the proposal for these riders represents a 100% increase for cash fares and a 64% increase for pass fares. A suggestion supported by several members of the committee would be that senior and disabled fares be left at the current level, while adult pass fares be adjusted to even higher levels to achieve the desired revenue increases.
- Some members expressed concern about the impacts of the fare increase on ridership, especially among low-income and bus-dependent riders. Metro should take every possible measure to soften the impact on these particular riders. We strongly suggest that the Council add additional subsidy to the Human Service Ticketbook Program.

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Members of the King County Transit Advisory Committee are regular bus riders who provide advice on policy issues effecting Metro system transit riders. We live in every part of King County and represent a variety of transit modes and experiences. Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the proposed budget and fare increase.

Sincerely,

Tina Shereen, Chair  
King County Transit Advisory Committee

cc: The Honorable Ron Sims, King County Executive  
The Honorable Jane Hague, King County Councilmember  
Arthur Thornbury, Legislative Analyst, King County Council  
Harold S. Taniguchi, Director, Department of Transportation (DOT)  
Laurie Brown, Deputy Director, DOT  
Kevin Desmond, General Manager, Metro Transit Division, DOT  
Victor Obeso, Manager, Service Development, Metro Transit Division, DOT  
Betty Gulledge-Bennett, Manager, Community Relations and Communications  
Section, DOT